

## Supplementary information

### A NHC silver(I) macrometallocycle: synthesis, structure and selective recognition of iodide anion

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## 1. CCDC numbers for complex 1

CCDC 853182 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for complex 1. These data can be obtained free of charge via <http://www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/conts/retrieving.html>, or from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge, CB2 1EZ, UK; fax: (+44) 1223-336-033; or e-mail: [deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk](mailto:deposit@ccdc.cam.ac.uk).

## 2. The Figs of fluorescence and UV/vis spectroscopies for complex 1 (Fig. S1-Fig. S4).

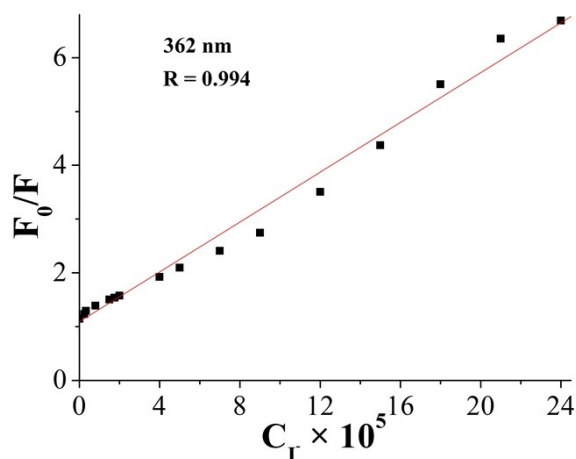


Fig. S1 Stern-Volmer plot of **1** quenched by  $I^-$  in acetonitrile solutions at 25 °C.  $K_{SV}$  was calculated as  $2.3 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1}$  ( $R = 0.994$ ).

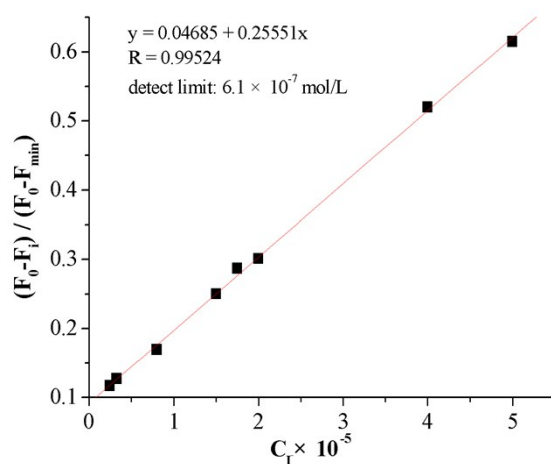


Fig. S2 Emission (at 362 nm) of **1** at different concentrations of  $I^-$  (0, 0.25, 0.33, 0.8, 1.5, 1.75, 2.0, 4.0,  $5.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol/L}$ ) added, normalized between the minimum emission (0.0 mol/L  $I^-$ ) and the emission at  $5.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ mol/L}$   $I^-$  in  $\text{CH}_3\text{CN}$  at 25 °C. The

detection limit was determined to be  $6.1 \times 10^{-7}$  mol/L.

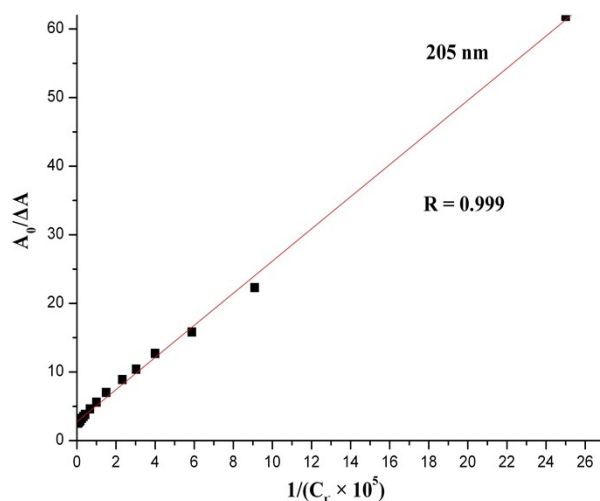


Fig. S3 Benesi-Hildebrand plot of **1** ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) in the presence of  $I^-$  in acetonitrile at 205 nm at 25 °C.  $C_{I^-}$  is 0, 0.04, 0.11, 0.17, 0.25, 0.33, 0.43, 0.67, 1.0, 1.5, 2.4, 3.0, 4.0, 6.0, 9.0, 12.0, 15.0, 20.0  $\times 10^{-5}$  mol/L.

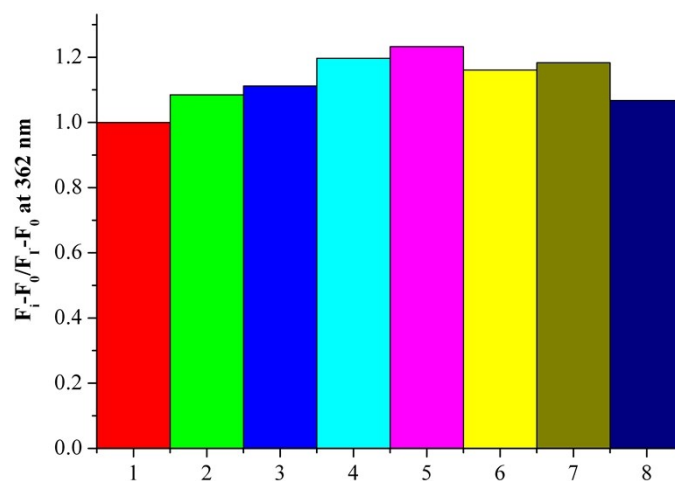


Fig. S4 Change ratio  $((F_i - F_0)/(F_1 - F_0))$  of fluorescence intensity of **1** upon addition of 1 equiv.  $I^-$  in the presence of 5 equiv. background anions. 1:  $I^-$ ; 2:  $I^- + F^-$ ; 3:  $I^- + Cl^-$ ; 4:  $I^- + Br^-$ ; 5:  $I^- + H_2PO_4^-$ ; 6:  $I^- + HSO_4^-$ ; 7:  $I^- + OAc^-$ ; 8:  $I^- + NO_3^-$  in acetonitrile at 25 °C.  $F_i$  is the fluorescence intensity in the presence of  $I^-$  and other anions.  $F_1^-$  is the fluorescence intensity in the presence of  $I^-$  alone.

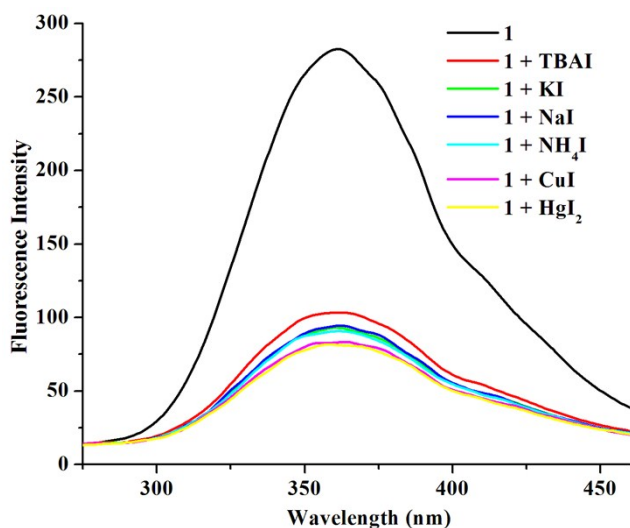


Fig. S5 Fluorescence spectra of **1** ( $1 \times 10^{-5}$  mol/L) with I<sup>-</sup> salts with different counteranions (TBA<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>, Cu<sup>+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>).

### 3. Whole <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra for Complex 1 and 1·I<sup>-</sup>

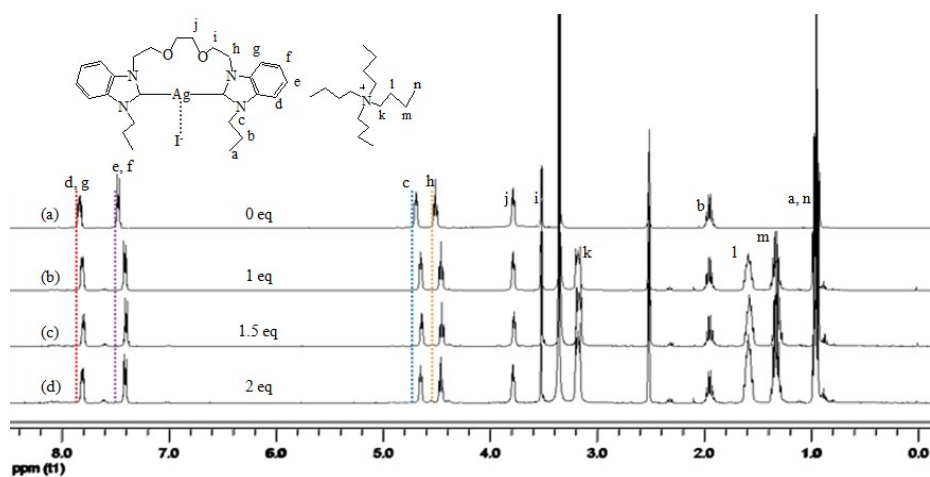


Fig. S6 Whole <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectra in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>. (a) Complex **1**; (b) **1** and 1 equiv. of TBAI; (c) **1** and 1.5 equiv of TBAI; (d) **1** and 2 equiv. of TBAI.

#### 4. HRMS spectrum of 1·I<sup>-</sup>.

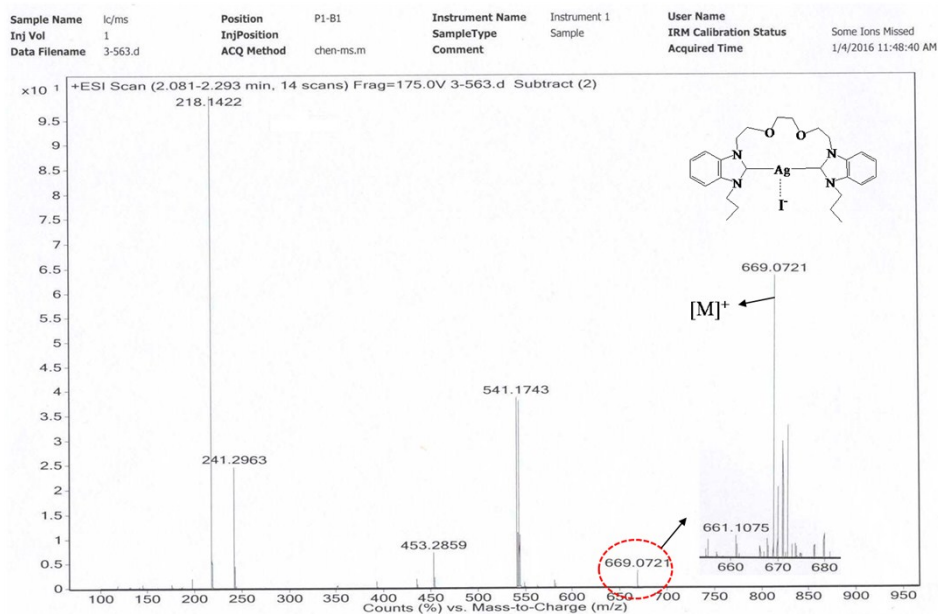


Fig. S7 HRMS spectrum of 1·I<sup>-</sup>. MS (EI): m/z [M]<sup>+</sup> = 669.0721.

#### 5. The infrared spectra of complex 1 and 1·I<sup>-</sup>

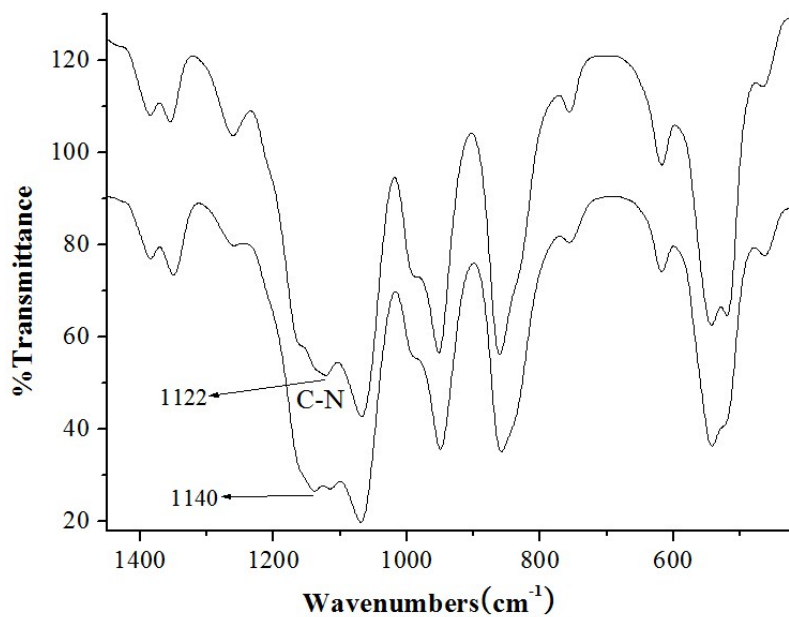


Fig. S8 Infrared spectroscopy of complex 1 (top) and 1·I<sup>-</sup> (bottom).

## 6. The $^1\text{H}$ NMR and $^{13}\text{C}$ NMR spectra of precursor and complex 1.

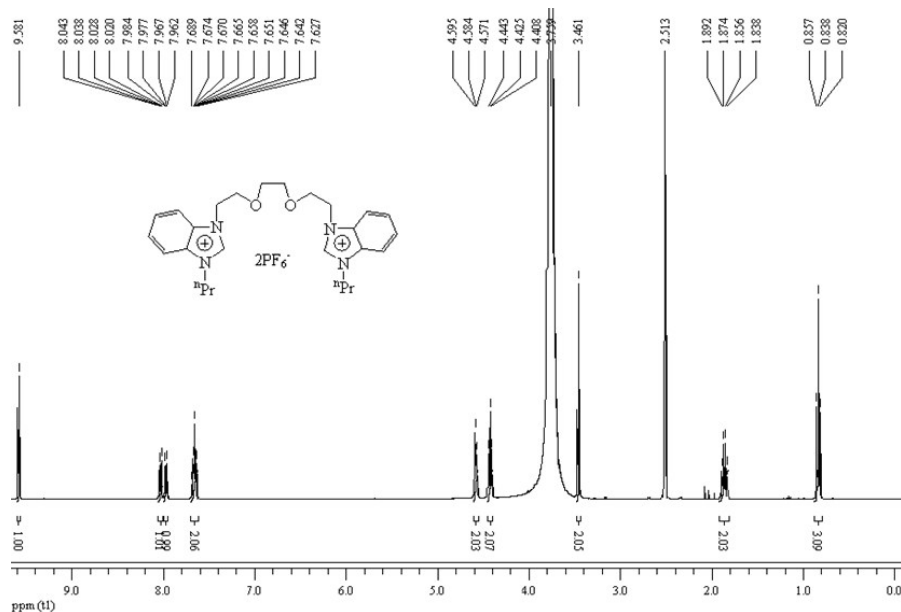


Fig. S9  $^1\text{H}$  NMR of 1,1'-[1,2-ethanediyl-bis(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl)]-bis(3- $n$ propylbenzimidazolium-1-yl) dihexafluorophosphate ( $\text{LH}_2 \cdot (\text{PF}_6)_2$ ) (400 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ).

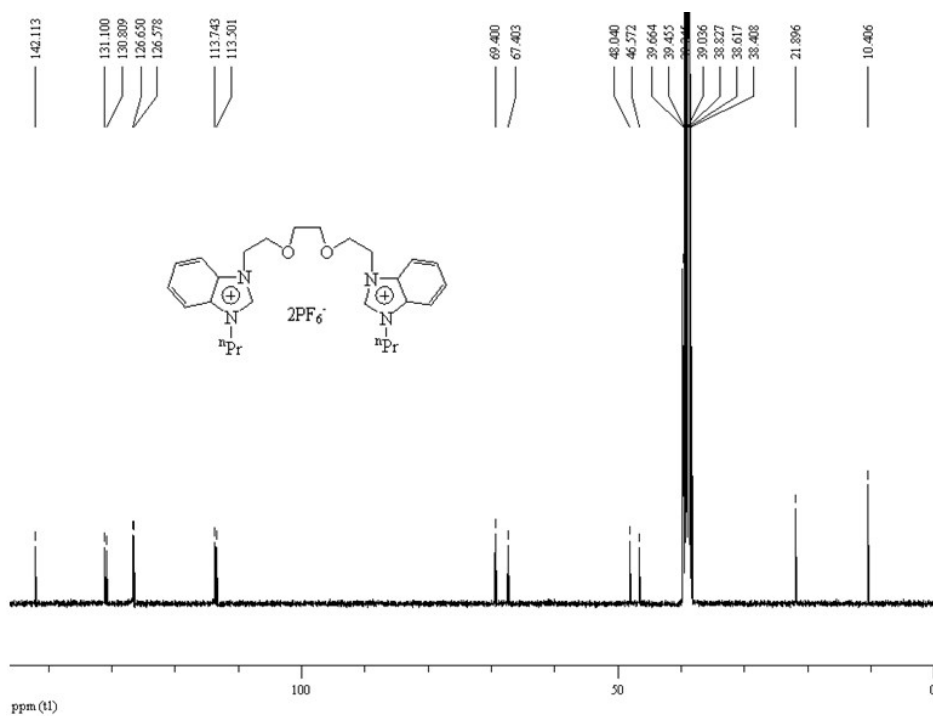


Fig. S10  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR of 1,1'-[1,2-ethanediyl-bis(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl)]-bis(3- $n$ propylbenzimidazolium-1-yl) dihexafluorophosphate ( $\text{LH}_2 \cdot (\text{PF}_6)_2$ ) (100 MHz,  $\text{DMSO-}d_6$ ).

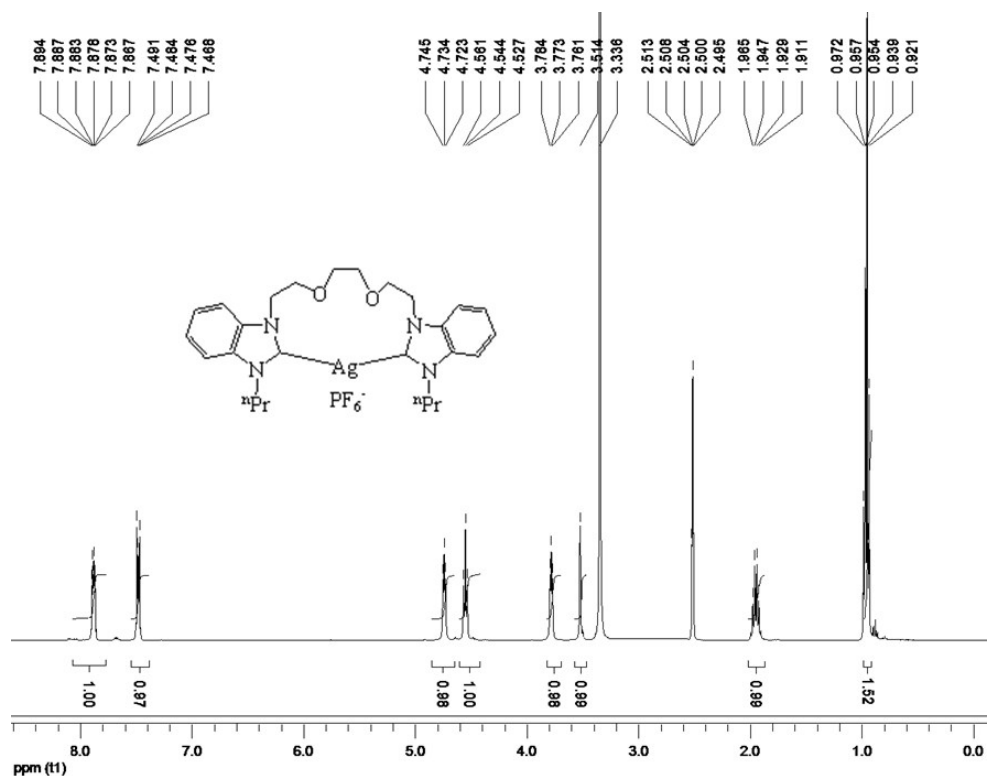


Fig. S11 <sup>1</sup>H NMR of Silver-1,1'-[1,2-ethanediyl-bis(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl)]-bis(3-n-propyl-benzimidazolium-1-yl) hexafluorophosphate (**1**) (400 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>).

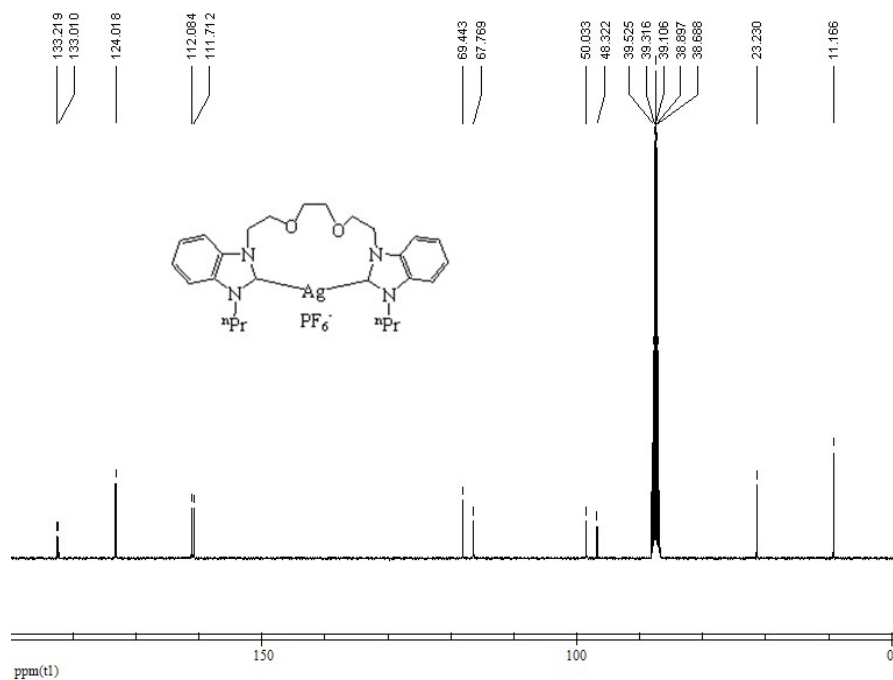


Fig. S12 <sup>13</sup>C NMR of Silver-1,1'-[1,2-ethanediyl-bis(oxy-1,2-ethanediyl)]-bis(3-n-propyl-benzimidazolium-1-yl) hexafluorophosphate (**1**) (100 MHz, DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>).

## 7. HRMS spectra of $\text{LH}_2 \cdot \text{I}_2$ , $\text{LH}_2 \cdot (\text{PF}_6)_2$ and **1**.

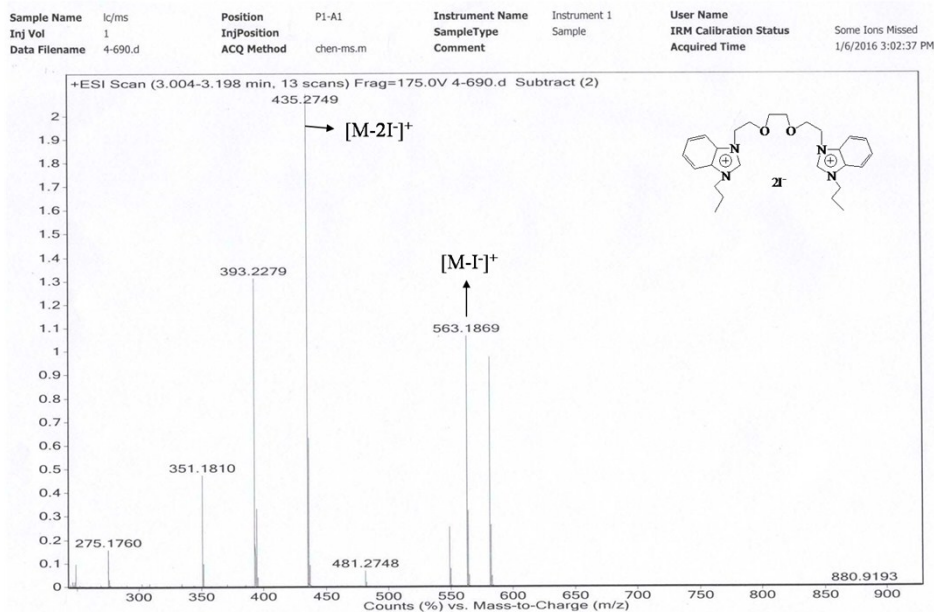


Fig. S13 HRMS spectrum of  $\text{LH}_2 \cdot \text{I}_2$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$   $[\text{M}-\text{I}]^+ = 563.1869$ ,  $m/z$   $[\text{M}-2\text{I}]^+ = 435.2749$ .

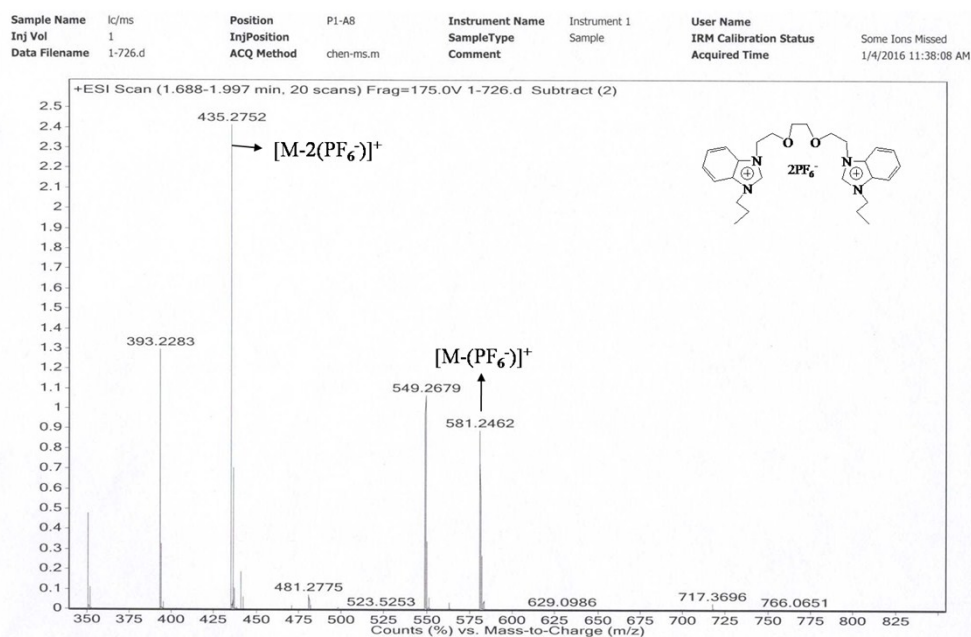


Fig. S14 HRMS spectrum of  $\text{LH}_2 \cdot (\text{PF}_6)_2$ . MS (EI):  $m/z$   $[\text{M}-(\text{PF}_6^-)]^+ = 581.2462$ ,  $m/z$   $[\text{M}-2(\text{PF}_6^-)]^+ = 435.2752$ .



Sample Name	lc/ms	Position	P1-A9	Instrument Name	Instrument 1	User Name	
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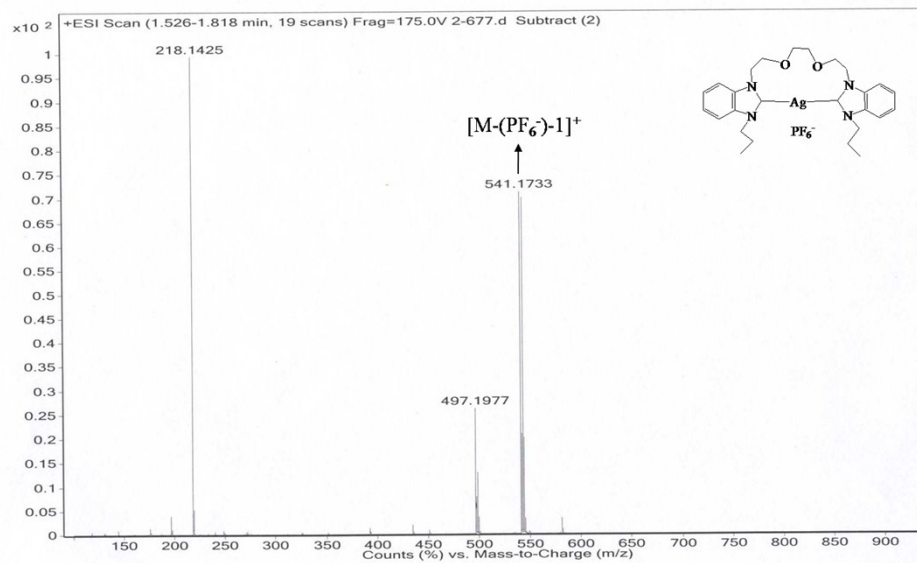


Fig. S15 HRMS spectrum of **1**. MS (EI):  $m/z$   $[M-(PF_6^-)-1]^+ = 541.1733$ .